

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
Interagency Council on Homelessness

Notes from Meeting of the Interagency Council on Homeless (ICH)

Date and Time: June 12, 2012 2:00pm – 3:30pm

Location: DC General Family Shelter, 1900 Massachusetts Ave, SE

Approximate Attendance: 75

**Welcome and Introductions**

BB Otero, Deputy Mayor of Health and Human Services, called the meeting to order.

**Public Comment Period**

- One person commended the ICH for providing services to families, but urged the committee to remember that single men and women who are also in need of services.
- Another suggested that the rising cost of rent in the District is directly related to the peak in homelessness and the ICH should look into this if it ever hopes to be successful in ending homelessness.
- One person announced the establishment of a new homeless choir and asked interested parties to sign up with him.
- Another attendee raised the issue of better access to living wages as a means to overcoming and preventing homelessness.
- A homeless resident announced that she attended this meeting as a representative of 100 women with whom she lives at a nearby women's shelter. She was placed in a homeless shelter and has been on a waiting list for permanent housing for the last 12 years.
- Another meeting attendee commented that the facility located on 2<sup>nd</sup> and D streets is in unlivable condition and that something needs to be done.
- Another attendee expressed his concern that there is no representation from the DOES on a consistent basis.

### **Summary of Pre Meeting Discussion**

- Fred Swan, Administrator for the Department of Human Services, Family Services Administration, gave the summary of the pre-meeting. The pre-meeting focused on the Emergency Shelters Grant, which is funded by HUD. The discussion was on the current plan and how to align it with the ICH strategic plan. A public comment form was distributed to the attendees and returned to Darrell Cason at the end of the meeting. There will also be a public comment period regarding this issue. An official call for comments was scheduled to be made by June 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Residents and stakeholders are strongly encouraged to come out and comment on the Substantial Amendment for the Emergency Solutions Grants program.

### **SCHEDULED PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

**Monday, July 2, 2012 ~ 1:00 pm**

1800 Martin Luther King Jr, Avenue, SE, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Room

**Monday, July 9, 2012 ~ 6:30 pm**

Frank D. Reeves Municipal Building, 2000 14<sup>th</sup> Street, NW, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Community Room

District of Columbia residents who would like to present oral testimony are encouraged to register in advance either by e-mail at [dhcd.events@dc.gov](mailto:dhcd.events@dc.gov) or by calling 202-442-7251. Please provide your name, address, telephone number, and organization affiliation, if any.

### **ICH Committee Reports**

#### **Executive Committee – Scott McNeilly, Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless (WLCH) & David A. Berns, DC Department of Human Services (DHS)**

- The Executive Committee continues to meet regularly to coordinate work with the community. All are welcome to volunteer with this committee.
- There are a number of vacancies and expiring positions on this committee. A slate of candidates has been sent to the Council, but not in enough time to be included in the last Council session.
- Confirmation hearings will not occur until the fall, since the Council will go on recess in July.

#### **Operations and Logistics Committee – Chapman Todd, Catholic Charities**

- The new schedule for the Operations and Logistics Committee is set for the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month. Next meeting will be on June 27<sup>th</sup> at 1:00pm at DHS, 645 H Street, NE, and 6th floor.
- Since the last ICH meeting in April, they have been following up on the pre-meeting topic concerning transportation for homeless individuals.
- Now distributing data that has been collected on families throughout the winter months. The information should be made available on the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month.
- The committee is also focusing on developing the winter plan for this upcoming winter season. Certain components of the plan have been broken up among other committees. The final draft is expected to be available for public comment by the end of July.

- ICH will vote on a winter plan at the August 14<sup>th</sup> meeting.

#### **Shelter Capacity Subcommittee – Michael Ferrell, Coalition for the Homeless**

- The primary focus of the next committee meeting will be to develop draft recommendations for shelter capacity for families and single adults for inclusion in the winter plan. The meeting will be on Thursday, June 21<sup>st</sup> at 9:30am at SOME.

#### **Strategic Planning Committee – Kelly Sweeney McShane**

- The committee has met in April and May, and discussed updates on family shelter capacity and monitoring at each meeting.
- In April, the Veterans Committee gave an update and provided recommendations with regard to services for veterans to be included in the workplan.
- Department of Employment Services also presented updates on their One City, One Hire program.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter statistics were also reviewed during the May meeting. Copies of the report are available to the public upon request.
- The permanent Supportive Housing Cmte also presented an update on their MOU process. They have requested that the strategic committee look at target populations at its next meeting.
- Next meeting is Tuesday, June 26, 2:30-3:30 at the Community Partnership. Agenda items include review of the strategic plan and starting next year's workplan.

#### **Youth Subcommittee – Sue Marshall & Steve Baron**

- Has met twice since last ICH meeting.
- The meeting held in May had a visitor from Alternative House located in Fairfax, VA; they presented on their programs and the services they provide.
- The June meeting focused on the adaptation of some of the services provided by Alternative House (i.e. Shared quarters for young people, etc).
- The group will also continue to work on a total of six long and short-term goals, which have been established on the local and federal levels.

#### **PSH Committee – Kimberly Black & John Hall**

- The group met on May 8<sup>th</sup> to discuss updating the needs assessment; the committee plans to make updates based on this year's Point in Time Count.
- The next meeting is scheduled for July 10<sup>th</sup> at DHCD and will continue to meet the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of every odd month.
- Also met w/ agency directors of DMH, DHS, DCHA, Housing Finance and DHCD to discuss the draft of a consolidated MOU, which lays out all the logistics of how the District's funds will be allocated within the consolidated RFP. Capital funding, operating funding and service funding. The MOU has been drafted and circulated to all the agencies for comment.
- Met on May 10<sup>th</sup> to get feedback from those agencies. Comments were due at the end of May. The committee has received comments from two agencies but the outstanding agencies are expected to submit comments as soon as possible. MOU is targeted to be finalized by August pending the receipt of all agency comments.
- The committee has asked for assistance from the Strategic Planning Cmte to help identify a target population for the RFP.

- The Deputy Mayor of Human Services has requested to be kept updated on the status of the MOU finalization process.
- The director of OCP has requested to be included in the process early on.

### **FY 13 Final Budget Changes**

#### ***District of Columbia Housing Authority (DCHA) Update***

- FY13 Local budget – The Council approved \$4 million in new funding for tenant-based vouchers for 250 new families – will work closely with DHS in terms of referrals for qualified families; \$2 million will be available for project sponsor based housing to make more units available – funding will be available sometime next year; and \$19 million received to sustain over 1,000 families who are currently being housed through the local rent supplement program.
- Received an allocation of 150 federal vouchers for veterans referred to DCHA through the VASH program.
- 80 veterans were connected to landlords at a recent DCHA housing fair to get them housed permanently.
- Anticipate another 150 federal vouchers for veterans housing.

#### ***Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) Update***

- City Council increased DHCD budget by granting them \$2 million for the housing production trust fund. This fund helps DHCD produce affordable housing units that are either built or rehabbed. With the added funds, the DHCD will be able to add 30 more units of housing next fiscal year.
- DHCD was given another \$2.5 million to help those trying to achieve homeownership through the home purchase assistance program.
- The FY13 budget should allow DHCD to develop approximately 1,000 new housing opportunities through either new construction or rehab.

#### ***Department of Human Services (DHS) Update***

- DHS was very pleased with the Mayor's budget proposal, 95.9% of the proposed budget was approved.
- \$14.7 million in additional revenue will be allocated toward maintaining existing grants and helping families move into exempt situations where they will not face time limits or grant reductions; another funding allocation will include the consolidation of TANF reform and homeless family services efforts. This will allow DHS to hire additional case management and assessment staff. All of these activities are contingent upon the availability of the \$14.7 million, which is expected no later than December 2012.
- \$7 million will be provided in order to continue to support and improve the services to fill the gap that resulted from the fact that DHS had to use federal money that will not be available next year.

### **Veterans Subcommittee – Mary Cary & Kevin Morton**

- The subcommittee has finished its work for the full committee and is now working closely on the new community services center, located at 1500 Franklin Street, NE – this facility will be a 24-hour facility that will provide health care, mental health, job counseling, case management and other services. The facility will serve all 8 Wards of the City and some counties in MD and Northern VA.
- One attendee asked for the committee to engage in marketing activities so the homeless community will know about this new facility.

### **Strategic Plan Performance Management and 2012 Point in Time Summary**

- PIT count results are posted on the ICH website [www.ich.dc.gov](http://www.ich.dc.gov)
- Ms. Otero urged all ICH members to participate in next year's count.

### **Council Committee on Human Services Announcements/Updates – Yulondra Barlow**

- The shelters for individuals were not used to their capacity due to the mild hypothermia season.
- 500 new families were placed in shelter this winter season, which is double the amount for past winter seasons.
- Hotels were utilized when there wasn't any space available; last year DHS housed roughly 40 families; this year it housed 210 families in hotels, despite the addition of 118 beds in the existing shelter facilities.
- Total capacity at DC General is 218 units and it's operating at full capacity.
- Approximately 140 families are still residing in hotels.
- DHS is not placing any additional families at this time.

### **Public Comments**

- One woman announced that she is available to assist female veterans. She provided her contact information: Vickie Williams (202) 617-4887.